

CNMEC

Newsletter



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Tips for Managing Energy Use during COVID-19

January, 2021

As American families and businesses transition to remote work, they may see a surge in home energy use and in upcoming electric bills. Simple money saving steps can help lower monthly electric bills without jeopardizing safety or comfort.

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative understands the increased financial hardships facing families and businesses due to the economic impact of COVID-19. While we have suspended disconnections for non-payment and are waiving late fees, consumers will still be responsible for those bills when the pandemic has passed. It's important for families to be mindful of their energy use and consider adjusting certain habits to avoid higher costs later on.

Recommended energy-saving tips include:

- **Program your thermostat to maximize energy savings.** Setting your thermostat one degree lower when heating or one degree higher when cooling can reduce energy use by up to 5 percent.
- **Do full loads of laundry and wash with cold water.** Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more.
- **Air dry dishes.** This step can cut your dishwasher's energy use by up to 50 percent.
- **Substitute LEDs for conventional light bulbs.** Lighting can amount to up to 12% of monthly energy use. LED bulbs can cut lighting costs by 75%.
- **Unplug appliances and electronics when not in use.** Small appliances and electronics use energy even when not in use. When powered on, game consoles, televisions and similar electronics are responsible for up to 12 percent of energy use.

CNMEC members who have questions about their energy bills should contact our offices at (505) 832-4483 or Out of Area 1-800-339-2521

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Five Ways to Stay Cozy this Winter

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," **an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to **keep your feet warm**. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and **harness natural warmth from sunlight**. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to **use a humidifier**. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, **area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

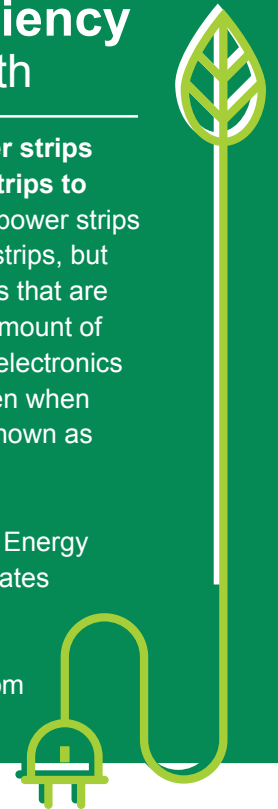
These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter *without* turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov



2021 Scholarships

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative is accepting scholarship applications for 2021. High school seniors may obtain a scholarship application at www.cnmec.org, co-op offices or from high school guidance counselors. **The deadline to submit a completed and signed application is January 20, 2021.**

Mail applications to:

PO Box 669

Moriarty, NM 87035

For more information:

Call Curtis Belcher at 505-847-1008